

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

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TOSEC 62

FOR ATHERTON FROM LAINGEN

FOLLOWING REPEATS STATE 270881 ACTION NEW DELHI 10 DEC

QUOTE

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TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR KAUL'S PRESS INTERVIEW

REF: NEW DELHI 16315

1. LAINGEN TELEPHONED INDIAN MINISTER GONSALVES DECEMBER 10
CONCERNING AMBASSADOR KAUL'S INTERVIEW ON INDO-U.S. RELA-
TIONS REPORTED REFTEL. LAINGEN SAID DEPARTMENT WAS
PUZZLED AS TO WHAT AMBASSADOR KAUL MEANT TO CONVEY BY HIS
COMMENTS, PARTICULARLY HIS QUESTIONING LIKELIHOOD THAT
SECRETARY'S POLICIES AS EXPRESSED DURING HIS VISIT TO
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DELHI WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED OR PRACTICED. SECRETARY'S VISIT

HAD SERVED TO SET STAGE FOR CONTINUED PROGRESS IN STRENGTHENING U.S.-INDIAN RELATIONSHIP AND AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS AS REPORTED IN PRESS COULD ONLY SERVE TO RAISE DOUBTS IN MINDS OF BOTH INDIANS AND AMERICANS AS TO OUTLOOK FOR THIS PROCESS.

2. GONSALVES SAID HE REGRETTED MANNER IN WHICH AMBASSADOR HAD BEEN QUOTED SINCE HE WAS CONFIDENT AMBASSADOR SHARED DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS AS TO ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING VISIT. GOI'S POLICIES DURING AND SINCE VISIT HAVE BEEN DESIGNED

TO EMPHASIZE THAT VISIT HAD MADE SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIP. HE REFERRED IN THIS CONNECTION TO GUIDANCE RECEIVED FROM DELHI AND SPECIFICALLY TO PERSONAL LETTER RECEIVED BY AMBASSADOR KAUL FROM MRS. GANDHI IN WHICH SHE NOTES HOW PLEASED SHE WAS OVER RESULTS OF VISIT AND INCIDENTALLY ALSO EXPRESSED REGRET THAT INDIANS PRESENT AT SECRETARY'S DINNER WITH INTELLECTUALS HAD APPARENTLY MADE SO LITTLE CONTRIBUTION TO OVERALL ATMOSPHERE OF VISIT. GONSALVES SAID HE WAS SURE AMBASSADOR MEANT TO CAUTION AGAINST EXCESSIVE EUPHORIA, GIVEN PROBLEMS THAT HAVE AFFECTED U.S.-INDIAN RELATIONS IN THE PAST AND POSSIBLE PROBLEMS IN IMPLEMENTATION INCLUDING CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT. LAINGEN SAID HE COULD APPRECIATE THAT KIND OF RESERVATION BUT GENERAL IMPRESSION LEFT BY INTERVIEW WAS REGRETTABLY TO THE EFFECT THAT U.S. ADMINISTRATION WOULD BE DELINQUENT IN TAKING STEPS TO IMPLEMENT AND FOLLOW THROUGH ON ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF VISIT.

3. GONSALVES SUBSEQUENTLY TELEPHONED BACK TO SAY THAT HE HAD CHECKED WITH THE AMBASSADOR WHO CONFIRMED HIS PURPOSES WERE VERY MUCH ALONG THE LINES THAT GONSALVES HAD ASSUMED. HE SAID HE PLANNED TO LISTEN TO TAPE OF THE ENTIRE INTERVIEW AND WOULD BE BACK TO US THEREAFTER IF THIS CAUSED HIM TO CONCLUDE ANYTHING TO THE CONTRARY.

4. STORY BASED ON KAUL'S PARTICIPATION IN "OVERSEAS MISSION", WEEKLY PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAM FOR EDUCATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TV/RADIO WHICH AID SPONSORS TOGETHER WITH AMERICAN UNIVERSITY. PANEL OF JOURNALISTS INCLUDED SPENCER DAVIS OF AP WHO FILE STORY ON WHAT KAUL HAD TO SAY. FULL TRANSCRIPT WILL BE AVAILABLE IN FEW DAYS AND WE WILL POUCH DELHI COPY. INGERSOLL UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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